

the Bullet

Volume 77, No. 21

Serving the Mary Washington College community since 1922

You Can Run...



Junior Ring Week!

But You Can't Hide



Dawn of the Dead

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April 1, 2004

Fight For Marriage Equality



Peter Keely/Bullet

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By BETSY CRUMB & ANDREW HALL
News Editor and Assistant News Editor

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Mitchell explained to Dugger and Victor that a license for a same-sex marriage cannot be issued under Virginia law.

"Isn't that against the 14th Amendment of the Constitution?" Victor asked Mitchell. The 14th Amendment guarantees equal protection under the law.

"That's not my decision," replied Mitchell. She told Dugger and Victor they should consult a lawyer on the issue.

Mitchell said she was anticipating the same-sex couples. She had prepared to cite Section 20-45.2 of the Virginia Code, which bars two people of the same sex from marriage.

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The Opposing Sides To Gay Marriage

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They were rejected.

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be treated this way."

Gay marriage has become a prominent issue in America as of late. President George Bush addressed the matter in this year's State of the Union address and the topic has spiraled more and more since then. With same-sex couples traveling across the country to the few states that do allow gay marriage, marriage equality is becoming a larger issue every day. And even little Fredericksburg has not been excluded.

The Facts

In January's State of the Union address, Bush defended his opinion on the "sanctity of marriage," opposing homosexual marriages.

"A strong America must also value the institution of marriage," Bush said. "I believe we should respect individuals as we take a principled stand for one of the most fundamental, enduring institutions of our civilization."

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Three MWC Faculty Declare Resignation

By KATE LACY
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Three faculty members have announced their resignation from Mary Washington College beginning in the Fall of 2004.

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The Board approved the resolution to be released to the public, under the Personnel Docket Part I, during a meeting on Feb. 19 and 20 of this year.

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Her teaching areas include reading education and elementary education and she has many specialized areas of interest, including mentoring novice teachers.

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Since White already lives in Alexandria, Va. her new position will be closer, but she said this does not make leaving the education department at Mary Washington College any easier for her.

She said she will miss the dedicated and enthusiastic students in the education program and her colleagues in the department. And it seems everyone she has touched feels the same way.

"She's great," said Jessica Granda, a senior in the education program. "She is extremely approachable and even after I stopped taking her classes I would go visit her. I know that all of the students and faculty will miss her a lot."

White sees her resignation as bittersweet.

"I leave MWC with very mixed emotions," White said. "I have truly enjoyed my years here. However, I believe that life is about different experiences. I am constantly searching for new experiences, and this opportunity seemed right for me at this time."

Kathleen Swan, who joined the education program at Mary Washington College in the fall of 2003, also resigned, but was unavailable for comment.

Carole Corcoran's resignation from the college seems the next logical step after her sudden disappearance from teaching classes at Mary Washington College in early October of 2003.

There is still no explanation from the college or Corcoran on the matter and some students in the psychology department are curious about the reasons behind her resignation.

Beth Wagner, a senior psychology major, wants to know the real facts behind Corcoran leaving the college in such an abrupt manner.

"I have heard so many rumors and contradictions surrounding her disappearance," Wagner said. "Everyone is saying something different, and I would like to hear from the department, or someone who knows, what the real reasons are."

5 Day Forecast



TODAY
Showers
High: 55
Low: 42



FRIDAY
Showers
High: 56
Low: 39



SATURDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 57
Low: 38



SUNDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 58
Low: 37



MONDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 59
Low: 33

Verbatim...

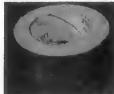
"Since our society has no clear hardships, we have fabricated initiations such as hazing so people can prove their worth."

—Debra Steckler, professor of psychology, page 5

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Police Beat

By STEPHANIE TAIT
Staff Writer

March 25—At 10:30 a.m., campus police investigated a report of a hostile person who entered the Multicultural Center and was harassing the employees. According to police, the man was upset about his wife having to abruptly leave the center. The man was banned from campus.

March 26—At 11:58 p.m., police received a call from Jefferson Hall reporting that a student was drinking and passed out. Police arrived to find a 19-year-old female resident unconscious. The student was transported by the rescue squad to Mary Washington Hospital.

March 27—At 1:31 a.m., a 19-year-old male resident of Russell Hall reported a lacracy of five dollars in quarters from his room. When he left at 9:30 p.m., the victim locked his room door. Upon returning, he found the door unlocked and his room ransacked. There are no suspects or witnesses and the case is under investigation.



March 28—At 12:54 a.m., an officer working the Junior Ring Dance found a student sleeping against the wall on the second floor of the Campus Center. The officer noticed a strong scent of alcohol and that the student was drooling all over himself. When the officer woke the student, he was slurring his speech and needed assistance walking. The 20-year-old resident of Bushnell Hall was arrested for public intoxication and transported to the Magistrate's office. The student was then transported to Rappahannock County jail and referred to administration.

March 28—At 4 a.m., an officer issued four parking tickets to a Toyota Pickup. While the officer was writing tickets to another vehicle, he noticed the pickup driving away and saw that the owner had removed the tickets from his car and placed them on another car. Later that evening the officer noticed the pickup parked on campus walk in front of the Underground. The owner of the car claimed he had put the tickets on another car as a joke, police said.

Homosexual Marriage

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lifetime commitment find themselves waiting in long lines at the city halls in San Francisco, Vermont or, just recently, Massachusetts.

However, none of these states allow same-sex marriages. These states allow for civil unions between same-sex couples, which differ in each state, but in general promote a separate but equal mentality.

Marriage Equality, a group based in California fighting for same-sex marriages, believe civil unions and marriage are not equivalent. In a civil union, partners will receive individual state rights, however are denied federal rights such as social security spouse benefits, hospital visitation rights and inheritance rights, among others.

According to U.S. News and World Report, the Senate passed a bill in 1996 to deny federal recognition of same-sex marriages and give states the right to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages licensed in other states.

Currently, Bush has endorsed the proposal of the Federal Marriage Amendment. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, if passed, the amendment will read, "Marriage in the U.S. shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution nor the Constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

The amendment narrowly missed passing in the Senate in February by just three votes. The legislation requires a two-thirds majority to be passed in order for the bill to be sent to the American public on Nov. 2 in a general election ballot vote, according to an article from the Atlanta-Journal Constitution.

However it's not hopeless for gay activists.

Slowly, sodomy laws are being overturned. Sodomy is defined by dictionary.com as: "Any of various forms of sexual intercourse held to be unnatural or abnormal, especially anal intercourse or bestiality."

In 2003, according to Supreme Court documents, in the case of Lawrence and Garner vs. the state of Texas, the Supreme Court ruled six to three that sodomy laws in all states are unconstitutional, violating the Due Process Clause of the Constitution.

Donald Rallis, associate professor of geography at Mary Washington College and a gay man, spoke next.

"I must say I'm really proud to be a resident of Fredericksburg today," Rallis said. "I stand here as a gay man and as an American and also as a second class citizen in my own country."

Rallis said homosexuals are treated as second-class citizens in America because of the lack of rights, specifically marriage rights, that are given to them.

"Let's be clear on one thing: we're not here to ask a favor, we're not here to ask for a privilege, we're demanding basic and civil human rights," Rallis said.

As a native of South Africa, Rallis compared the illegality of gay marriages to race issues, especially the apartheid.

"Why not for civil unions, as some people suggest," Rallis said. "This is an argument which is very familiar to those of us who grew up in apartheid South Africa. It's called separate but equal, and it doesn't work."

Rallis said civil unions will deny gay couples basic rights which are given to heterosexual couples.

"Civil Unions are a part of second-class citizenship and we won't settle for that," Rallis said.

Rallis said the speech was not difficult to write.

"I think that this was an easy speech to write because the arguments in favor of equality are so clear," he said. "I think it would be difficult to write a plausible speech against equality."

Rallis said he felt good about the rally and the large turnout of supporters.

"I think it was affirming to me as a gay person to see the extent of support in a relatively conservative environment like Fredericksburg," he said.

Rallis said he was pleased there were so few marchers that were opposed to gay marriage.

"The whole experience tells me that there is widespread support for the notion of equality and I wish the political leadership would realize that," he said.

Rallis said he was not nervous before his speech on the steps of City Hall. He has been giving speeches on gay issues for several years.

"I was pleased to be able to participate," he said.

Finally, the president of People for the Rights of Individuals of Sexual Minorities (PRISM) at Mary Washington College Nathan Figueroa, presented.

Figueroa discussed Governor Mark Warner, presenting the two options the governor has with

"I break it up in two ways, and the first thing I look at is marriage and what God has designed biblically," Pope said. "And upon looking at what God has designed biblically, we look at Genesis one: he specifically mentions husband and wife, male and female and that stays consistent throughout the entire scripture."

Over winter break Pope wrote a book which entitled "Identity Crisis." The book deals with the idea of homosexuality and the identity crisis it may pose.

Many also challenge homosexual relationships because they leave couples unable to procreate with each other, which, according to the Family Research Council, is one of the main purposes for marriage. Any type of marriage not allowing procreation is seen as unnatural.

"[Homosexual marriage] strays into that which is unnatural," Keefer said.

The Supporters

However, many students and citizens alike do support gay marriage.

Nathan Figueroa, president of People for the Rights of Individuals of Sexual Minorities (PRISM) at Mary Washington College, said the Federal Marriage Amendment "reeks of ignorance, intolerance and fear." He said if passed, this will be the only amendment to the Constitution which restricts the rights of the American people since the prohibition amendment.

"In the simplest language, the FMA is just plain wrong," Figueroa said.

Susan Stanskas, former president of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), agreed with Figueroa. She said the bill can't be passed because recognition to all those who are gay is needed as well as giving gays and lesbians the rights they deserve.

"In Fredericksburg, Virginia, as in every other Commonwealth community, gay and lesbian couples have to go to great expense to imitate the type of legal protections that a simple marriage license conveys," Stanskas said.

Mary Gay Hutcherson, who attempted to get married last week to her long-time partner Yolanda Fanum, said, "We are not asking for special rights, we are asking for the God-given rights granted to all the rest of the citizens in the U.S."

Associate professor of Geography Rallis spoke at the Fredericksburg rally last week and cited many arguments used against gay marriage.

"The radical right tells us we're trying to destroy the institution of marriage,"

Rallis said. "Marriage is in crisis, they say, divorce is at an all-time high, out of wedlock births are on the rise, children more than ever before are being raised in single-parent families. Guess what? Straight people manage that all by themselves."

Rallis said the people who most condemn gays for being promiscuous also seem to be those who are most strongly in opposition to the marriage amendment. The Rev. Stephenie Burns, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Fredericksburg, agreed.

"Don't blame the state of marriage on those of us who have never been allowed to engage in marriage with the person of our choice," Burns said.

Rallis responded to the argument that marriage is only between a man and a woman and its main purpose is simply for procreation.

"They say the main purpose of marriage is procreation," Rallis said. "Since same-sex couples can't procreate, they shouldn't be allowed to marry. But if that's the case, post-menopausal women shouldn't be allowed to marry; infertile couples should not be allowed to marry. Perhaps we should revoke the marriage licenses of those people who are married and have not had children. It's an absurd argument."

Fredericksburg vice-mayor Scott Howson also opposes the Federal Marriage Amendment.

"I fully support the concept of civil marriage for couples willing to take the legal steps required to declare their partnership, period," Howson said.

Many members of the Fredericksburg community support gay rights and oppose the Federal Marriage Amendment.

Helen Sanders, who just turned 59, attended last week's rally to show her support. Sanders worked as the Health Center nurse at Mary Washington College until 1977. She is now a resident of Fredericksburg.

"I was unaware of the lack of equal rights for gay, lesbian and transgender people until I began talking to Susan [Stanskas]," Sanders said. "I just don't see why they shouldn't be recognized with the full rights you and I have."

Professor Alejandro Cervantes-Carson of the sociology department at Mary Washington College said the nation as a whole needs to look at the bigger problem.

He said it is necessary to critique the institution of marriage itself. He said the decentering of heterosexuality as the norm and the destruction of the hegemony of male identity and domination is evident in both hetero and homosexual relationships and must be addressed as the more general problem.

The Conclusion

Homosexual marriage continues to be an issue in everyday life. As the Federal Marriage Amendment gains support, so do rallies across the country.

With passionate anti gay marriage advocates as well as pro gay marriage advocates, the issue will continue to gain momentum.



Peter Kelley/Bullet

Professor Donald Rallis and junior Kim Beckert
clap from the steps of City Hall at last week's rally.

he said. "I think it devalues marriage."

He said a heterosexual couple sharing sexual intimacy and reproducing is "not the same thing as two ladies together with a vibrator."

Rupert said if the precedent of gay marriage were set, in five years he would be at City Hall for another cultural event involving "a man and his goat."

Figueroa said he thought there were over 100 Mary Washington College students at the rally. He said some students re-scheduled classes and exams in order to come and support gay marriage.

"It's a historic moment in the history of Fredericksburg," he said.

Figueroa said his speech at the rally was inspired by a speech given by John Lewis in 1996 in opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act. Lewis, a Georgia congressman, is the last living speaker in the "March on Washington" in 1963 where Martin Luther King gave his famous "I Have A Dream" speech.

Figueroa said his friend Cris Elkins, one of the gay marriage applicants at the rally, emailed him the speech when he was trying to write his own.

"I was reading over that, and that kind of gave me the impetus to start writing," he said.

Figueroa said in his speech that Lewis condemns the Defense of Marriage act as being hate-inspired and excluding legal rights to a specific group of people.

He said he drew heavily from the editorial he wrote in the March 18 issue of *The Bullet*.

"I think it was a really successful event," he said. "A lot of people turned out from the community. There were some counter protesters, they were respectful about it, they were peaceful," he said. "It was nice to see that there were so many supporters."

The rally lasted about an hour and approximately 200 people were there. Junior Kim Beckert coordinated the rally along with Figueroa and Susan Stanskas of Parents of Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

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Viewpoints

Editorial Living Wage

The Living Wage Rally today calls to attention the pathetic status of staff salaries at Mary Washington College.

Many students come here from among the nation's wealthiest families. The wages of groundskeepers do not affect the students greatly. It is commendable that students have taken the initiative to rally for the benefit of others.

Mary Washington College can now join University of Virginia and Harvard as schools whose students have taken the initiative to try to improve the conditions of their employees.

Few would disagree with the improvement of the workers' wage.

The real dilemma lies with the source of the money. Tuition is not a feasible source as it is already expected to increase in the coming years.

The state is not a realistic source of money, given the state's budget crisis and limitations put on financing non-salaried employees. Additionally, Mary Washington College is already underfunded.

The best source of funds for this proportion are the alumni.

If the alumni specifically allocate money toward the living wage, it could be a reality.

Respect Dining Services



By LINDSAY BEATON
News Editor

When I began working at Seacobeck as a sophomore, and I had to stare down angry students who accused me of hiding chicken nuggets on Fridays as the real culprit wandered off with an entire plate full, I didn't say a word.

When I became a student manager and the chairperson of the Presidential Dining Hall Advisory Committee my junior year, and began reading all the uninformative editorials about Dining Services, I didn't say a word.

But now that I am a senior, once again the chairperson of the Dining Committee, and an employee in the Offices of Dining Services, I have decided to finally respond to all the editorials I read about how much Seacobeck and the Eagles Nest suck.

First of all, I feel obliged to point out that my connections with Dining Services and my position on the Dining Committee put me very near what should be the "pulse" of the student body where food is concerned. I hear many concerns, and when I hear them I make sure they get to the people who can fix the problems. And, in what is surely a miracle in this age of modern bureaucracy, the problems get fixed. Or, if they do not get fixed, they are addressed to the greatest extent possible.

Oddly enough, however, in looking at the names of the people who write such nasty editorials

about the food on this campus, I do not recognize a single one. Due to the fact that I am one of the most accessible people I know, and also due to the fact that I know every manager both Seacobeck and the Eagles Nest personally and find them all, without exception, to be extremely accessible, I can only conclude that those who write their scathing letters to *The Bullet* have not actually talked to anyone who could possibly address their issues. So, as a student who knows way more about the Dining Services here than any normal student would ever even want to know, please, allow me.

Let me address the two recurring themes of every single letter *The Bullet* receives regarding Seacobeck and the Nest: food quality and long lines. When I first came to this campus, I looked for one thing and one thing only where food was

concerned: vegetarian options. I was not about to apply to a school where I would spend four years starving for lack of dinner items that did not include a dead animal. And guess what? I applied. And in the four years I have been here, I have never gone hungry.

Let me tell you, there are many, many more options here now for vegetarians and vegans than there were my freshman year. Seacobeck has a vegan salad bar, vegan bread, vegetarian and vegan hamburgers, hotdogs and chicken, any number of vegan and vegetarian options where the action stations are concerned, and at least (note that *at least*) one vegetarian (usually vegan, and often more than one) entrée at both lunch and dinner.

All this outside of the fact that you can walk into the kitchen (you know, the big room through the doors you see workers always rushing in and out of so they can serve you!), speak to a chef, and see if they can make something for you. And guess what? If they are able to, they will. All you have to do is ask. The same goes for all you meat eaters out there. Don't even try to tell me there's nothing for you guys, because I spend a lot of my time looking for meat so I can avoid it, and it is everywhere!

As far as food at the Eagles Nest goes, the Nest is meant to be a food court, not a restaurant. Many things served there are pre-packaged, and every pre-packaged item takes up space. In addition, every "made to order" item requires space to make, and as we are all painfully aware, space is in limited supply.

But how is it, I wonder, that the space problem had extended into the realm of things that are the employees' faults? Have you seen lately what the Nest is sitting on top of? That's right, a hill. A hill that is not expansion-friendly. As a result, the Nest does what it can with the space it has.

If you want more variety there, or new items, you must be willing to sacrifice an already-existing item. Unless, of course, you would like to walk out into the trees down the hill behind the Nest to buy food? Because that's where any expansion would have to go.

The location of the Nest is hardly the fault of anyone working there, and is hardly something

► See SEACOBECK, Page 11

Give Employees A Living Wage

By BILL DEPHILLIPS
Guest Columnist

Students don't often wonder how their [residence halls] are kept clean. Except for moving to the other side of campus walk to avoid a man or woman wearing a backpack-mounted leaf blower, students probably don't give a second thought to all the time and effort that goes into keeping our campus pristine and tidy. And they certainly don't think about how much those workers are paid.

I never did. That is until last year when I was across the street shopping at Dollar General and I recognized the cashier as a housekeeper on campus.

I later found out that many housekeepers arrive for work at 2 a.m., work until noon, and then work a second job in the afternoon to make ends meet. Due to the rising cost of living in Fredericksburg, which is becoming a pseudo-suburb of Washington, D.C., many of the workers have to live far away, in southern Spotsylvania or even Caroline County, sometimes driving an hour in the middle of the night to get to work.

The Mary Washington College housekeeping and groundskeeping staff consists of approximately 40 full-time employees, many of whom make a mere \$8.10 per hour. They were given a two percent raise last year, but had been denied their mandatory two percent annual raise

To pay our workers enough to live on, we need to institute what is called a living wage.

for three years prior to that. While I'm sure the two percent helped, it is dwarfed by the cost of living increases in and around Fredericksburg over the same time period.

To pay our workers enough to live on, we need to institute what is called a living wage.

A living wage is simply a pay rate annually calibrated to the cost of living in an area. For Fredericksburg, a living wage for a family of four with both parents employed is \$9.54 per hour. Instituting such a living wage would allow the workers to get full-time pay for full-time work, and not have to work two jobs.

Clearly, the school is strapped for cash, but money is certainly available. It just depends what the administration chooses to prioritize in their budget planning. And, clearly, their priorities lie in making Mary Washington College appear prestigious by calling it a university and constructing bell towers to lure prospective students from afar.

The workers who keep our campus looking prestigious, however, appear to have been pushed to the bottom of the list.

Even if the administration could not shift a single cent from other sections of the budget, the maximum total cost for instituting a living wage would only be \$21 per student per year. And likely even less than this liberal estimate. I think that a mere \$21 to give workers what they fairly deserve is not asking too much.

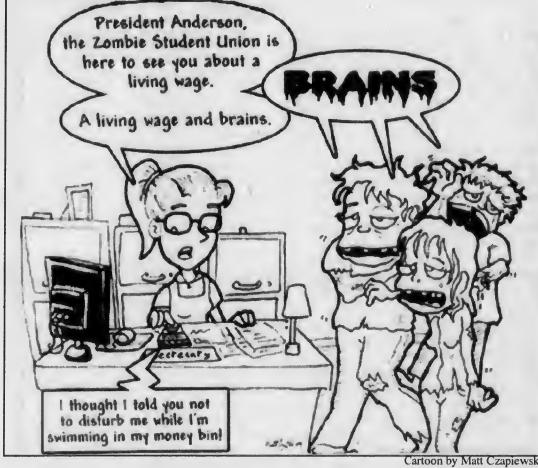
In fact, with all the fees we get on our campus bill, I would be surprised if anyone even noticed a Living Wage fee on the list next to those hundred dollar "miscellaneous" fees.

The University of Virginia and The College of William and Mary already pay their workers a living wage. Virginia Commonwealth University is in the process of implementing one. If we're

going to boast about Mary Washington College being the next great university, let's pay our workers university-level wages.

If anyone is interested in helping make a living wage a reality at Mary Washington College, please come to organizational meetings in 203 Monroe on Wednesdays at nine p.m.

Bill DePhillips is a junior



Cartoon by Matt Czapiewski

Features

Students Wreak Havoc on Juniors

By Debbie Kim
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, junior Jonathan Yonce received an unusual package. Enclosed was a headband adorned with large, pink, felt flower petals and a sign reading, "I'm the prettiest pansy in the patch." Unfazed, he slid the headband on and placed the sign over his head.

Yonce was unsure of what would happen next, but knew he would have to accept his fate as a junior during Junior Ring Week.

The pranks had begun.

The once-held tradition of praise and adoration of juniors during Junior Ring Week has morphed over the years into one of debauchery, paranoia, and a sticky mess of egg yolk and ketchup. During the week, no junior is safe and no amount of duct tape is enough.

Despite the unhealthy levels of paranoia on campus, juniors were willing to put up with whatever was coming their way once they were caught. Yonce explained his quick compliance with the instructions enclosed in his parcel.

"I received a threatening letter saying if I didn't do exactly what was instructed, an incriminating video of myself taped over spring break would be mailed to my professors and mother," he said.

Junior Christene Brown recalled the prank pulled on her last week that left her drenched in a variety of sticky ingredients.

"Symphonies kidnapped me outside of Pollard and covered me in honey and icing, and topped it all off with birdseed," she said.

Junior Laura Marafino described the prank that literally had her held in suspended animation.

"My friends duct-taped me to a light pole and proceeded to draw all over me," she said. "All of my clothes were stolen and a huge pile of mulch was left outside my door. I also had to 'walk' a steamed dog around campus. It was actually pretty fun and it makes for a memorable experience."

Junior and Class Council President Danielle Steele started off the week by getting pushed around by fellow council members.

"I was at the Underground preparing for the scavenger hunt when the members handcuffed my arms from behind and dragged me to the back of Lee Hall," she said. "I saw them wheel out a shopping cart and they cuffed me to it, where I carted it around for awhile."

But it wasn't over yet.

"After the scavenger hunt was done, they freed me, and then decided it would be a good idea to handcuff me to [sophomore] Frank Puleo," she said. "They put me in the cart and wheeled me to the Randolph Hall lobby. They finally let me go after I ran out of things to throw at them."

The Intervarsity Club on campus holds their own tradition during Junior Ring Week: the junior olympics. Senior Dominic Preissuti explained the concept.

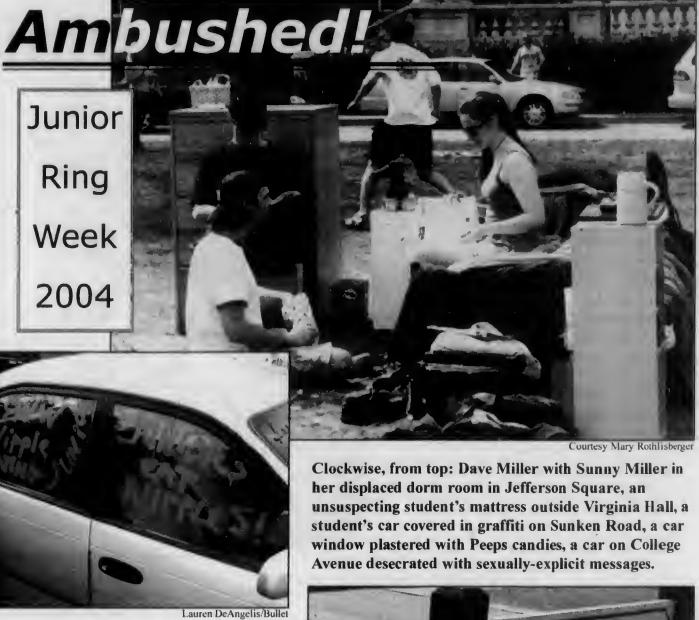
"Normally we have different events that the juniors participate in and whoever receives the most points by the end wins a prize," he said. "But this year, we secretly made it into 'junior boot camp' where myself and three other seniors dressed up in army fatigues and yelled at them a lot."

Participating in the "junior boot camp" required juniors to form teams of five where each team was assigned a large teddy bear. Their mission was simple—keep the bear as clean as possible while sacrificing yourself to the barrage of flour, mustard, and chocolate syrup.

► See DESTRUCTION, page 5

Ambushed!

Junior Ring Week 2004



Courtesy Mary Rothlisberger

Clockwise, from top: Dave Miller with Sunny Miller in her displaced dorm room in Jefferson Square, an unsuspecting student's mattress outside Virginia Hall, a student's car covered in graffiti on Sunken Road, a car window plastered with Peeps candies, a car on College Avenue desecrated with sexually-explicit messages.

Lauren DeAngelis/Bullet



This Ring Week Low on Police Reports, Clean-up

Junior Ring Week may cost some students their dignity, but it doesn't come without a price for the rest of the school either.

According to an April 2002 *Bullet* article, Junior Ring Week clean-up cost the school a total of approximately \$700 that year. In previous years, the damage was more expensive, but it seems that the pranks have become less messy throughout the years.

John Wiltenmuth, director of Facilities Services, said that he no longer keeps track of the specific cost of post-prank cleanup because the damage is not nearly as significant as it used to be.

Campus Police said they

were not bombarded with complaints this year either.

"It's been pretty typical, nothing extraordinary," said Police Communications Officer Paul Dowell.

Dowell said police received a few calls about students being taped to trees, and most other complaints had to do with missing political signs.

The most unique report involved the disappearance of a six-foot red balloon Quinzo's used this year as an advertisement. Police suspect that its disappearance may have something to do with a Junior Ring Week prank.

- Katy Nicholson

One Student's Pranking Rampage

By Katy Nicholson
Staff Writer

Junior Jenny Lott returned to her room in Westmoreland Hall after class last Wednesday to discover that it was actually outside of the building.

Most of the contents of Lott's room were sitting on the lawn, including her desk, mattress, television and computer. Lott was one of the many victims of this year's Junior Ring Week.

"I looked at my laptop and saw the words 'You've been had!' on the screen," said Lott, a resident assistant in Westmoreland Hall.

Lott soon found out that her friend, senior Lindsay Manning, the building's head resident, had planned the prank and enlisted the help of some of the students who live in Lott's hall.

"I was like, 'Guys, we've gotta get Jenny!'" Manning said.

However, Manning and her entourage were not satisfied with just moving furniture.

"We took all her skimpiest underwear and hung it from a tree. We made a wind chime," she proudly explained.

Manning topped the prank off by taking Lott's clothes and hiding them in her apartment for the rest of the week.

Lott and Manning agreed that creative pranks are better than being covered in eggs, mustard and other condiments, a common Ring Week prank.

"Those make you smell," she said. "Then again, I am smelly from having to wear the same clothes for the rest of the

week."

Lott got pranked again by some of her other friends because they thought that she had played a prank on them. They duct taped her hands together, put a pillowcase over her head, and put her in the backseat of a car.

Lott did not know where they were going to take her, but they threatened to leave her on I-95. In reality, they were just driving her to the Battlegrounds Athletic Complex, she said.

Lott's capturers took her out into a field, made her kneel on the ground, and removed the pillowcase from her head. Then they ran.

"I was gotten by fellow juniors as an act of revenge for something I didn't even do," Lott said.

Lott said she has also been the victim of some smaller pranks. Someone set off a stink bomb outside of her room. She also received a series of anonymous letters from her "one and only," who threatened to do something to her involving spaghetti.

It seems that Lott has become something of a prank connoisseur, and was not very impressed with the minor ones.

"Those were G-rated," she said. "They were amateurs."

Lindsay Manning was not content to just prank Lott. Her next victims were juniors Adam Bellacicco and Jonathan Yonce. Manning blackmailed Yonce and took everything that had to do with aviation out of Bellacicco's room: posters, a

► See PRANKS, page 5



"Officer pull me over I'm wasted," boasts a junior's car in Sunken Lot.

Thumbs Up... Thumbs Down...

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To not being able to find a job for after graduation.



To sushi at the Eagle's Nest.



To TBS replaying the same bad movie "Jawbreakers" all weekend long.

Send your own thumbs to bullet@mwc.edu

Coming This Saturday...

Multicultural Fair

By Jennifer Wooten
Staff Writer

This Saturday a few thousand people will gather in Ball Circle and on Campus Walk for Mary Washington College's 14th annual Multicultural Fair.

Junior Ryan Butts, co-president of the Black Student Association (BSA), has attended the Multicultural Fair for the last five years.

"The fair is my favorite event all year on campus," Butts said. "The entertainment from different cultures is amazing. With the different stages set up on campus, there is always something that you want to see. The problem is always trying to squeeze everything you want to see in."

Multicultural Student Counselor Greta Franklin said 3,500 to 4,000 people are expected at this year's fair.

One of the entertainment groups is the Kunsun Ensemble from Ghana. The group will perform West African music and dance. The ensemble includes past and present members of the National Ballet and the Pan African Orchestra.

According to the *Oculus* Press, "They have created innovative rhythms and dances by fusing bass and lead guitar with traditional Ghanaian instruments to produce an electrifying blend of jazz and African music."

Heartbeat will be performing Irish step dances, Solazo will present world folk music and dance and Touch of Paradise Islander Showcase will perform Polynesian music and dance.

Other performers include winner of the Today Show talent contest Anthony Campbell of Spotsylvania and an a cappella group called D.C.'s Finest Doo Wop Cops.

Many college student groups will

also be providing entertainment at the fair. The Wind and Percussion Ensemble, MWC Brass, MWC Sextet, Hand Percussion Club, Bell'A Cappella, and Voices of Praise will all perform.

There will also be an international fashion show by Kaleidoscope. Osasu Airihibere, one of the show's organizers, said many minority student groups are participating in the performance.

"I came up with the name Kaleidoscope because it evokes an ordered combination of colorful images, which is what is so special about the performance," she said.

Senior Katrina Keitt has attended the fair every year since attending Mary Washington College.

"It is a great experience because there are all sorts of cultural things going on from dancing, singing and information tables," Keitt said. "It's not a boring fair as some may think."

Entertainment isn't the only thing offered at the Multicultural Fair. The variety of food is considered one of the best parts of the fair.

"You have everything from Tex-Mex to American," Ryan Butts said. "You walk away from the afternoon feeling full."

Franklin said the fair will offer Thai, Chinese, Tex-Mex, and Mediterranean foods.

The Fair will also offer activities for children. Many student organizations such as BSA and Brothers of a New Direction (BOND) will have tables with different games and crafts.

"Our table will have diversity bags, bags made of flags from other countries, for the kids to carry their other goodies around," said Tamia Gillard, president of BOND.

BE THERE.

April 3
10 a.m. to
5 p.m.

Week of Duct Tape and Destruction

DESTRUCTION, page 4

While they bobbed for candy in a mixture of lime juice and cottage cheese, and tossed sponges saturated with pickle juice, attackers hidden between the different events subjected juniors to a constant onslaught of various foodstuffs.

The tradition of junior olympics, which open to all students, was started three years ago by Intervarsity and has increased in popularity each year.

While juniors looked forward to receiving their rings and participating in the variety of activities throughout the week, many others were also anxious to carry out their own plans to take full advantage of the week.

Senior Mary Ramsey had a clear idea of what to do for her roommate.

"I stole her Junior Ring dance dress and made up a scavenger hunt for her," she said last week. "I'm making her hunt for a lot of stuff before I'll give the dress back to her."

Sophomore Chrissy Schepis designed a more

**Junior
Jessika
Wang's
clothes
ended up
on Ball
Hall's
Joan of
Arc
statue.**



Pranks Galore For Juniors

PRANKS, page 4

model plane, and even the "F," "L" and "Y" keys from his keyboard.

That night, Bellacicco and Yonce both received packages containing plastic microphones and the lyrics to The Righteous Brothers' "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling." They were instructed to sing the song to an Eagle's Nest employee the next day at 1 p.m. in order for Yonce to comply with the blackmail and Bellacicco to have his belongings returned.

The next day, Manning gave Yonce a pair of bunny ears and painted whiskers on his face. Then she gave Bellacicco a butterfly Mardi Gras mask to wear during

demure prank for her junior friends.

"She was adamant about not having her stuff get ruined, so we had to think of something that wouldn't create too much of a mess," she said. "Basically we just arranged the door so that when she opened it, a big pile of packing peanuts would flood into the room."

Many juniors enjoy the added attention during the week, although the level of enjoyment is arguable. Hazing has been known to get out of hand at times, and can leave the victim hurt and confused, ruining the entire experience for them.

Debra Steckler, associate professor of psychology, explained possible explanations of why some pranks get out of hand.

"People can get caught up in the group mentality and take things too far. They get carried away because they see that others are doing it too," she said. "There can also be people who have a mean streak and use hazing as a legitimate way of doing whatever they want to do."

In addition, Steckler discussed why hazing is a popular method for initiation.

"Throughout history people have gone through rites of passage to prove themselves and move onto the next stage of development," she said. "Since our society has no clear hardships, we have fabricated initiations such as hazing so people can prove their worth."

By the end of the week, however, most juniors were relieved to be able to resort back to their normal regimens.

"I was hiding like it was my job," Danielle Steele said. "I don't know how I feel about the tradition after going through it myself, but there are definitely people that I want to get back."

At the end of it all, many took the opportunity to reflect back on the week and think about the cherished memories that had been created.

"I say the more creative, the better. I was expecting something to happen but nothing this original," Johnathon Yonce said. "I think it's fabulous."

their performance.

Bellacicco later gave his account of the event.

"We got to the Nest all dressed up and we asked Dora [an Eagle's Nest employee] if she could come have a seat with us when she got a minute," he said. "Sensing an oncoming song, Dora turned the radio off and came out. Jon and I proceeded to serenade her and the rest of the Nest patrons with one of the greatest love songs of all time. It was a lot of fun because everyone in the Nest was singing along and of course Dora was really into it."

Both Bellacicco and Yonce enjoyed the experience.

"We was by far the most creative prank I've ever been a part of and I had a blast doing it," Bellacicco said.

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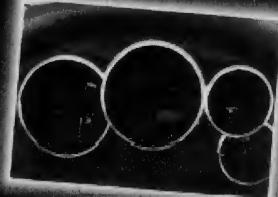
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Sports

Eagles Walk Over Salisbury

MWC Draws Five Walks, Scores Five Runs In Pivotal Third Inning

By Tom Borak
Sports Editor
and Amanda Burnham
Staff Writer

Revenge can be one of the strongest forms of motivation, especially when a long-standing rivalry is on the line. The Mary Washington College baseball team got their revenge on Tuesday, walking through a five-run third inning to beat CAC rival Salisbury by the score of 6-4.

Salisbury got on the board first with a run in the top of the third inning, but the Eagles came back strong in the bottom of the third.

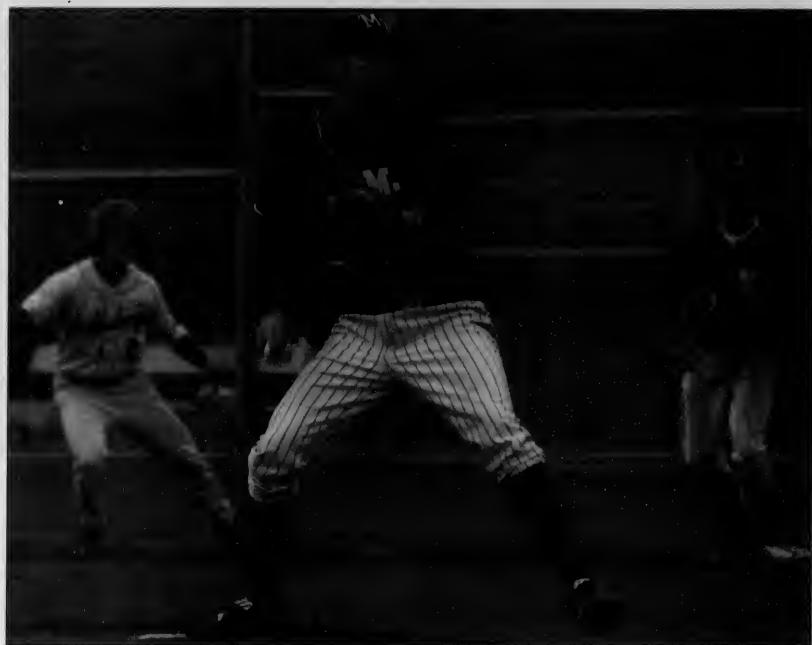
With two outs, senior catcher Robbie Wright singled to get things started for MWC (19-6, 4-1 CAC). After junior left fielder Jon Hurd walked, freshman shortstop Eric Fitzgerald singled to bring Wright in from second and tie the game at one.

Salisbury junior Greg Lasinski then hit MWC's freshman second baseman Ray Moore to load the bases. Senior first baseman Jay Quintana drew another walk to score Hurd. Lasinski then walked sophomore third baseman Brandon Cole to drive in the Eagles' third run. The next batter, freshman Tom McDermott, was also hit by a pitch, which pushed the Eagles' lead to four and forced Salisbury to yank Lasinski.

Mary Washington scored their fifth run on an error when Gulls' shortstop, junior Brandon Mason, booted sophomore Lee Rubin's ground ball. Junior Tim Stoner ended the inning by grounding out to second base.

The Eagles held the four-run lead until Salisbury was able to score a pair in the seventh inning. MWC responded with another run in the bottom of the seventh, an RBI single by Hurd, to score Stoner.

Salisbury added another run in the top of the eighth, but it was not enough to salvage the train wreck Lasinski started in the third inning.



Peter Kelley/Bullet

Sophomore Kevin Foeman has thrown complete games in each of his last two outings.

With the Eagles' victory, they celebrate their revenge over the no. 26 ranked Sea Gulls, a team that beat them 4-3 last Saturday.

"The Loss on Saturday really made this a must win for us," said left fielder Jon Hurd. "We definitely felt like we should have won on Saturday."

Sophomore Kevin Foeman dominated on the hill for the Eagles, hurling his second straight complete game. The 6'6" fire-ball compiled

nine strikeouts while allowing just two earned runs on seven hits.

"We jumped on them pretty early," Foeman said. "We let them get a couple of cheap shots in."

"This game was just a matter of breaks," said Eagles' head coach Tom Sheridan. "These two teams match up well together, it was just a matter of having the breaks fall in our favor and putting it all together."

The Eagles host games this Friday and Saturday. They will play Southern Virginia University on April 2 at 3 p.m. and CAC-leading York College on April 3 at 1 p.m.

Ruckin' Good

By Heather McKenzie
Special to the Bullet

How many people can say that they are on one of the top eight rugby teams in the nation?

Forty girls at Mary Washington College can.

Last weekend, March 27 and 28, the Mary Washington College women's rugby team went to Severna Park, Md. to play in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament. The top two winners of this tournament continue on to play in the National Tournament held in Bowling Green, Ohio.

The Wash Women took first place overall following two very exciting games. The team defeated The College of New Jersey and Temple University.

On Saturday, the team faced TCNJ a Division II team known for their tough, hard-hitting style of play.

The game started out to New Jersey's advantage. The opening kickoff sent the ball deep into Mary Washington College territory. It was recovered just 10 yards from the try-zone.

TCNJ continued its attack, but MWC stepped up its intensity, driving them back. The game was full of close calls for both teams, but after a few fast breaks from Renee Liers and Kim Woods, and a quick play off of a penalty by Victoria Stauffenburg, MWC pulled ahead and

cruised to a 21-0 victory.

On Sunday, Mary Washington faced off against Temple University. The last time the women's rugby team played Temple they lost in overtime on penalty kicks.

This match seemed to mirror the prior meeting between the two teams. Temple started out fierce and scored the first try of the game, but missed the conversion. The score remained the same through the first half, 0-5.

At the half, coach Kris Kabza said, "Ladies, we are not out of this game yet. Five points is nothing, we can do this!"

He was right. Mary Washington came out fighting, and the Eagles dominated the second half of the game. They kept most of the action in Temple territory for the majority of the half.

Many times the lady ruggers came close to scoring but could not get the ball in the try-zone. Finally, with less than 10 minutes left on a penalty play, Stauffenburg took the ball into a ruck. Katie Miller touched it down for the try, tying the game at 5-5. Lydia Frost kicked a flawless conversion putting MWC ahead by two.

Temple controlled the remaining minutes of the game coming close to scoring several times. The Eagles defended beautifully and in the end, won the Mid-Atlantic Championship, securing a berth in the National Tournament.

The lady ruggers will play the University of Central Florida in the Elite 8 in Ohio.

MWC Equestrian: Region I Champions

By placing second at the William and Mary show on Sunday, March 28, the Mary Washington College equestrian team won the Region I championship for the third time in the last four years. The Eagles will next participate in the Zone Show at St. Andrew's College in North Carolina on April 9.

Upcoming Events

- April 1 - Softball vs. Catholic, 3 p.m.
Women's Lacrosse vs. Roanoke, 4 p.m.**
- April 2 - Baseball vs. Southern Virginia, 3 p.m.**
- April 3 - Baseball vs. York, 1 p.m.
Softball vs. Salisbury, 12 p.m.**



And Then There Were Four

Duke Blue Devils

The Duke Blue Devils won the Atlanta Region by beating Alabama State, Seton Hall, Illinois, and Xavier. This is the fourteenth time that Duke has reached the Final Four and the tenth time under coach Mike Krzyzewski. The Blue Devils last reached the Final Four in 2001 when they won the third National Championship in school history.

Duke is led by senior point guard Chris Duhon, who was a freshman on the 2001 championship team. Duhon has been playing with injured ribs he suffered in the ACC Tournament when he collided with a camera diving for a ball out of bounds. The Blue Devils



will need Duhon to be at his best when they face UConn on Saturday night.

Sophomore J.J. Redick is a deadly outside shooter and will give the Huskies trouble if his shots are falling. Sophomore Shelden Williams controls the paint for Duke and will need to stay out of foul trouble against Emeka Okafor.

Freshman Luol Deng has emerged as a star for the Blue Devils. He was named the Most Outstanding Player in the Atlanta Region after averaging 18 points and 6.3 rebounds in four games. Duke needs Deng's success to continue in San Antonio. - Dave Buschenfeldt
Assistant Sports Editor

Oklahoma State Cowboys

The Oklahoma State Cowboys won the East Rutherford Region by beating Eastern Washington, Memphis, Pittsburgh, and St. Joe's. This is the Cowboys' first trip to the Final Four since 1995. Oklahoma State has not won the National Championship since 1946.

The Cowboys are led by senior guard Tony Allen and junior guard John Lucas. Lucas hit a game winning three-pointer with 6.9 seconds left against St. Joe's in the Regional Final.

Lucas is the son of the former NBA star with whom he shares his name. He transferred from Baylor University after the controversy surrounding the death of teammate Patrick Denney.



Junior forward Joey Graham and senior forward Ivan McFarlin give Oklahoma State an inside presence, but they stand only 6 feet 7 inches, and 6 feet 8 inches tall, respectively. The size of Georgia Tech's Luke Schenscher could present problems for the Cowboys.

- DB

University of Connecticut Huskies



The Connecticut Huskies won the Phoenix Region by beating Vermont, DePaul, Vanderbilt, and Alabama. UConn was picked by many at the beginning of the season as the favorite to cut down the nets in San Antonio. They will attempt to prove these experts' predictions correct this weekend.

UConn has been to one other Final Four in 1995 when the Huskies won the only National Championship in school history.

UConn is led by junior center Emeka Okafor, a unanimous All-American selection. Okafor is a dominating presence inside, but he has been hindered by a back injury. UConn will need Okafor to be at one hundred percent against Duke.

The Huskies have two strong guards in junior Ben Gordon and senior Taliek Brown. Gordon was named the MOP of the Phoenix Region, averaging 22 points and 3.8 assists in four games.

The Huskies won their four games by an average of 17.5 points. - DB

Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets



The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets won the St. Louis Region by beating Northern Iowa, Boston College, Nevada, and Kansas. This is the first time the Yellow Jackets have been to the Final Four since 1990. They have never won the National

Championship.

Georgia Tech was led all season by junior guard B.J. Elder, but he went down with an ankle injury in the Regional Semifinals against Nevada. He was ineffective in limited minutes during the Regional Final, but the Jackets hope that he will be able to play on Saturday.

Sophomore point guard Jarrett Jack put the team on his shoulders in Elder's absence against Kansas, scoring a career high 29 points, grabbing nine rebounds, and dishing out six assists. Jack will need another strong performance against Oklahoma State.

Georgia Tech will also rely on the inside play of 7-foot-1-inch junior center Luke Schenscher. He scored 15 points against Kansas and has established himself as a dominating force. - DB

**The Final Four tips off in San Antonio
Saturday, April 3.**

**Oklahoma State vs. Georgia Tech at 6:07 p.m.
Duke vs. Connecticut at approximately 8:47 p.m.**

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Scene

Mekhi Phifer
"Andre"



Ty Burrell
"Steve"

First Person

By Eliza Doenges
Staff Writer

As a huge fan of the original "Dawn of the Dead," I was somewhat skeptical of director Zack Snyder's 2004 adaptation and at first refused to see it. But, as an avid zombie fan, curiosity got the better of me and I had to check it out.

In this contemporary remake of George Romero's 1978 cult classic, "The Dawn of the Dead," the earth is once again plagued by an apocalyptic army of blood-thirsty zombies.

A hodgepodge of survivors look themselves into a mall in an attempt to escape the atrocity outside, eventually having to make a run for it in order to stay alive.

Pessimistically, I was expecting an MTV styled version of the cult hit, much like the appealing 2003 remake of "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre." But apart from a few unbefitting characters, I was pleasantly surprised.

The shaky camera work was very similar to "28 Days Later" and this time, the zombies could actually run and not just stagger around drunkenly, which made for more thrilling chase scenes.

First off, this movie is not for the queasy or faint of heart. I don't think I have ever seen so many heads explode. The gore factor was definitely not lacking.

Like any good zombie flick, the attack scenes are overly full of blood and carnage. At the beginning of the movie, the main character's husband has his throat viciously ripped apart by a child zombie, only to become a zombie himself



Clockwise: Above two scenes from "Dawn of the Dead." Right: The poster advertisement for the movie.

seconds later, and attack his wife.

The only thing that needed work in this movie was the cast. The dim-witted dialogue and dirty characters definitely took away a bit from the film's fear-provoking atmosphere.

But what this movie lacked in acting, it gained back in intensity.

What other movie, in its right mind would have a pregnant woman give birth to a "live" zombie baby?

The end of the movie was a bit tricky though. Finally, the characters, severely cut down in number, escape on a boat, hoping to make to an "uninfected" island.

The movie appears to end with them floating



Photos courtesy imbd.com

off into a safe horizon. But, if you sit through the credits, you will see a completely different ending.

Between credits, glimpses of home movies, from a camera found on the boat, flash across the screen. The survivors come to an island, optimistic of salvation.

But what those who didn't sit through the entire credits missed are a mass of zombies wiping out all the survivors in a realistic bloodbath.

Though nothing could ever top George Romero's original "Dawn of the Dead," this 2004

remake certainly delivered enough gore and violence to satisfy any hard-core horror fan.

For more information about the movie, including zombie survival guides, autopsies, or to join the zombie army, visit: dawnofthedeadmovie.com

Not Just An Average Teen Band

New York Band To Play At Underground Tonight

By Katy Hershberger
Staff Writer

While their peers are discussing the musical integrity of bands like Puddle of Mudd, the guys of pop/rock band Surefire are gaining their own respect throughout New York City and now, Mary Washington College.

Though their ages range from 17 to 19, Surefire cannot be pegged as just another teen band.

"Before people hear us or see us, they do blow us off as a teen band," said keyboardist and guitarist Nick Panken, 17. "Basically, 100 percent of the time they see us and like us."

Others within the New York City music scene have not been as judgmental.

"The other musicians and other bands have been really welcoming and supportive," said guitarist and singer Ben Stapleton, 18.

Surefire has been featured in Teen Vogue twice this year. They also have been reviewed by rock photo-journalist Jasper Coolidge, who has photographed local Mary Washington College band Pash.

This is impressive considering half of



Members of the rising teen pop/rock band Surefire.

Surefire's members are still in high school.

Underground manager, junior Merideth Munoz, booked the band and hopes that a lot of people will come to the show and like what they hear.

"I think it's pretty catchy stuff, in the vein of Rooney," Munoz said.

According to Surefire band's Web site "[Their] music swings between sensitive, Jeff Buckley-esque ballads to swooping rock anthems, but never strays from their unique and

representation of the band's live performance. The band's sound changed with the October addition of bassist Jacob Sloan, 19.

"The fact that we've put [the EP] so far behind us shows how much we've grown," Panken said.

Stapleton agrees with Panken about the band's growth.

"We're more confident as a band," Stapleton said.

Surefire

**Thursday, April 1
Underground
1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Free With MWC ID
\$2 non-students**

Though Surefire enjoys comparisons to such legendary musicians as the Beach Boys, they are not completely accurate.

"It seems like people struggle to find comparisons, but we don't really sound like anybody," Stapleton said.

In July, Surefire recorded an EP entitled "Solutions," with help from engineer Ed Rak, who has worked with acts such as Billy Joel, Madonna, and Frank Sinatra.

The EP is, however, no longer a good



New CDs This Week

From the top left:

- 1. J-Kwon "Hood Hop"
- 2. Aerosmith "Honkin' on Bobo"
- 3. Lloyd Cole "Music in a Foreign Language"
- 4. The Smugglers "Mutiny in Stereo"

Note: All CD release dates were March 30, 2004
All CD cover art courtesy of allmusic.com

Top 3 Movies

Courtesy of imbd.com



1. *Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed*



2. *The Lady Killers*



3. *The Passion of the Christ*

What's The Best Part Of Multicultural Fair?

Photos and Interviews By Beth Wingard, Stephanie Genimatas, and Katy Hensberger



"Food."



"Shopping."



"The dancing,
of course."



"Funnel cake
with sugar."



"The ballet
dancers."

Dave Hunsberger,
Senior

Janna Levin,
Sophomore

Erica Frisbie,
Junior

Brian Strider,
Sophomore

Ryan Bayne,
Senior

Gay Rights Rally Held On March 25



Below: Gay rights supporters Elisha Knight, Lee Knight, and Roger Flynt. Left: Mary Gay Hutcherson (right) and her partner, Yolanda Farnum. Above and right: Protesters look on.



Peter Kelley/Bullet



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Ms. Ali Gauch, Associate Dean of Admissions by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15, 2003.

Questions about the positions may be directed to: Ms. Ali Gauch at agauch@mwc.edu or 654-2000

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Don't be afraid to ask, because you've already messed up your life enough as it is.

Disclaimer: Ask Miss Information is written with the intent to entertain, and any advice dispensed should not be taken seriously.

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TUESDAY NIGHT

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10 pm

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required
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men
No hats please

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CAMPUS

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FUN * FOOD * DANCING

The Benefits Of File-Sharing

By STEPHANIE BASILE

Staff Writer

"Would you steal a CD or DVD?"

These flyers were everywhere. You know you've seen one. But stealing a piece of merchandise and downloading a file are two completely different things.

Nonetheless, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has been suing file sharers.

But why? Let's first look at the reasons behind their actions.

The RIAA claims that peer-to-peer file sharing has caused a decrease in CD sales since Napster's inception in 1998. However, anyone who's had a statistics class knows that correlation does not mean causation. Justin Moore, a graduate student of Duke University and creator of boycott-riaa.com, compared sales from the record industry to sales figures of other large companies from 1999-2002.

He found that the recording industry's decrease in sales over the three-year period were

no greater than those of other major corporations such as AT&T and Exxon-Mobil. Furthermore, the largest decrease was in the sales of records and cassette tapes, *not* CDs.

Secondly, representatives from the RIAA have stated that downloading music robs the artist. So does suing file sharers thus benefit the artist? No. A whopping majority of this money goes to the record companies. Additionally, artists make very little from CD sales to begin with. Most bands make most of their money from concerts and merchandise such as t-shirts and stickers.

If anything, free file sharing helps bands get their songs out there and exposes listeners to new music. We live in a world in which mainstream music is controlled by the same five major labels and the radio is controlled by three companies. Perhaps this trend in downloading represents the people's desire to hear new and different music.

If radio stations and TV insist on force-feeding us the same generic music every day, we're going to find other resources, and what better tool than the Internet?

Independent bands don't seem to mind sharing

their music — most of them hand out free demos at shows and put their mp3s on host sites such as io-musicmedia.com, iuma.com and the now defunct mp3.com.

If I hear about a new band, and their music is not accessible through any other medium than the Internet, well then I'm going to use the Internet! As is the case with most people, I don't like to buy a CD until I hear some of the songs on it first.

If it wasn't for Kazaa, I wouldn't have bought half the CDs I own today. If the RIAA wants to throw numbers around, then they should probably mention the studies that show that 80 percent of file sharers say they buy more CDs thanks to downloading.

The RIAA has made the war against downloading a matter of major vs. independent labels. Only major labels support the RIAA because they care about their own wealth more than the art or the artist.

Don't be fooled by the many different record labels listed on the RIAA's members list — almost all of them are owned by the same five companies.



The

RIA also lists several indie labels as members, but 16 of them have already turned out to be false listings. When I noticed Trustkill Records listed on their web site it struck me as odd. Home to hardcore bands such as Most Precious Blood and Eighteen Visions, I thought this might be a mistake, so I e-mailed Trustkill. It turns out the listing was in fact false, as is the case with the 15 other labels currently listed.

How did so many labels wrongly wind up out there to begin with? Is the RIAA trying to look more legit by putting indie labels as members? One can only ponder this. All I know is that the RIAA is suing people when they really have no basis to do so. If you think there's a problem with this, I recommend you do what more and more people are now doing: buy indie.

Stephanie Basile is a sophomore

Get More Out Of Dining

From SEACOBECK, Page 3

that can be immediately dealt with. How much more do you want your tuition to go up? Because building new venues costs lots of money.

Of course the food services are going to have to expand with the college, and I am sure there are ideas being tossed around. But, I also realize that to expect money to come out of thin air and new food buildings to pop up in the middle of campus walk just so I can have three places to choose food from instead of two is highly unrealistic.

Regarding the quality of the food in general, I know the chefs personally and they all have experience in what they are doing. The executive chef has years upon years of it, and I don't know what food you all are eating, because his food is excellent. Alas, however, cooking for 4,000 students will result in a bad pan once in a while. Try it some time, and see if you can get it perfect every time you cook. But make sure you cook non-stop for 8 hours a day, and make sure you take into account the fact that you will most likely be cooking not just for 4,000 students, but also for any number of faculty and staff who feel

like lunch that day, whatever external contracts you are obliged to cook for, and anywhere from 1-5 catering events. If you can do all this without a single miss, apply for a job here and I am sure you will be hired on the spot. And then you can complain all you want.

And now I come to the line problem, everyone's second favorite gripe. I could just refer you to my "sitting on top of a hill with no room for expansion" plan, but I think I'll do better.

The very astute among you have noticed that both the Eagles Nest and Seacobeck get swamped around noon every day. Let's think about this for a second, shall we? The most popular time for class is 11 a.m.; not too late for the early birds, and not too early for the late risers. The most popular luncheon for everyone is noon. The 11 a.m. class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday gets out at 11:50, which would mean the vast majority of those who do not have a noon class and are getting out of their 11 a.m. class would hit Seacobeck around 11:55 a.m.

This, oddly enough, is when any cashier at either establishment (Surprise! I've been a

casher, too!) will tell you they get their first rush.

Of course the lines are going to be long. Have you ever been at the mall around noon? Or at any restaurant in Central Park? Lines, lines, everywhere.

How can you expect anything different at Seacobeck or the Nest, which have the distinct challenge of having to serve an entire campus of voracious college students on strict schedules?

The same formula applies to dinner. 5 and 6 p.m. on the dot are enter at your own risk, because you and I both know that everyone eats at exactly those times.

And why are the lines long at 8 p.m. at the Nest? Because everyone who eats that late has to go there since Seacobeck is closed by then (a lovely constraint put into effect by a little thing called a contractual obligation).

So next time you think of getting aggravated with the poor cashier, who can only swipe your broken, tape-up card so fast, because the line is long, take some advice: walk through the doors five or ten minutes before noon or 5 or 6 p.m., and your line will be much easier.

A side note: when Seacobeck opens for dinner at 4 p.m. on weekdays, there is absolutely no one eating there until 5 p.m. Yeah, it's kind of early, but I suppose you have to decide whether you'd rather beat the system and then hit the Nest for a

snack later in the evening, or suck it up and wait in line for two minutes for an all-you-can-eat meal. If you can come up with a fix to the long lines at the Nest (without re-building the place), please share them with one of the managers. Some things just defy solution.

If you have read this far, you are probably at least willing to consider what I am saying. If you still have questions, all is not lost. Come to a Dining Committee meeting. Walk into the kitchen and speak to a manager or a chef. E-mail dining@mwc.edu.

Come find me. I am, after all, a student. Just one who happens to work for the very establishments you like to slam every week.

Trust me, everyone who works at Seacobeck and the Eagles Nest would much rather talk to you in person than read yet another article about how they are doing a horrible job. Please realize that as much as you hate waiting in line, the cashier hate looking at a bunch of disgruntled faces. Realize that as much as you wish there was more variety, the chefs are constantly working to get it to you.

And maybe instead of writing a nasty letter to *The Bullet*, you can take that energy and thank the more than 100 people who make sure that, one way or another, you get fed every day.

Lindsay Beaton is a senior

The Weekly Wassup

What to do...Where to go!

April 1 - April 7



Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Great Lives Series	Southside Luau	Multicultural Fair 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.	Spring Egg Hunt		Great Lives Series	Workshop: Critiquing Speeches
"Sigmund Freud"	5-7 p.m. Jefferson Square	Campus Walk and Ball Circle	Monroe Fountain		"Mohandas Gandhi"	4-5 p.m. Combs 101
7:30 p.m. Great Hall					7:30 p.m. Great Hall	
Surefire Concert 8:30 p.m. Underground Free with MWC ID \$2 w/ 18+ ID	Wind Ensemble Concert 7:30 p.m. Dodd Auditorium	Performing Arts Club Spring Show 7:30 p.m. Dodd Auditorium	Phi Beta Lambda Business Career Forum 2-4 p.m. Tan Lounge, Campus Center		James Farmer Day 12-5 p.m. Campus Center, across from the Nest	



Serve the community by being a Commencement Usher. Applications to

serve as a Commencement Usher are available in OSACS, Marry House and at

the Information Desk. Ushears will work at the events preceding

Commencement including Grad Ball, Convocation and Graduation Rehearsal.

Residential students will be allowed to stay in their residence hall

rooms and their meal plans will be extended. Applications are due on

April 9 to OSACS. If you have any questions, call 654-1061.

Homeless Activism

By WORTH STOKES
Photo Advisor

Students from the Mary Washington College Campus Christian Community (CCC) organized lectures and activities this week to raise awareness of homelessness in the Fredericksburg area and encourage local activism.

Seniors Amber Rector and Jason Echols scheduled this week's events after visiting Washington D.C. last semester for a weekend of volunteerism with the Virginia Coalition for Housing as part of an outreach retreat with the CCC.

Funded in part by St. George's Episcopal Church on the condition that they would organize an information station on campus subsequent to their return, members of the CCC agreed to spend one week focusing on homelessness and activism.

According to Echols, who is an acting member of the CCC ministry team, his experience with the homeless in Washington sparked an interest in local concerns and he promptly agreed to help find speakers who might be interested in speaking at Mary Washington College.

Echols said he feels strongly that

students can and do make a difference.

"You are not just one voice," Echols said.

Director for the Virginia Housing Coalition, Sue Capers, agreed.

According to Capers, communication with local, regional and state legislators is a very important part of changing policy.

"We can't hold legislators responsible if we can't communicate to them what we want," Capers said.

Capers spoke on Monday night to a group of 17 students after Debra Schleef, assistant professor of sociology, began the lecture by sharing general information about homelessness and statistics.

According to Capers, students and citizens participate in different ways, which include contacting legislative representatives by phone, e-mail and formal letters, all of which are ways to advocate awareness of social rights.

"I believe that it takes real power to bring about change," Capers said. "Our power is not in wealth or in position, but in numbers. We will not go away."

The two spoke for approximately one hour about homeless people and regional difficulties with shelter, housing and low-wage jobs.

According to the Virginia Coalition for the Homeless (VCH), one-third of all homeless people in Virginia are children and more than half of the people in the state's shelters have jobs.

Founded in 1986, the VCH brings people together to advocate, educate and develop resources for the elimination of homelessness and poverty in the state of Virginia. A substantial amount of time, as Capers mentioned, is spent on legislative activism.

According to pamphlets published by the VCH, future efforts will focus on the passage of a Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit and a Rental Assistance Program. The tax credit would "increase the numbers of working individuals and families able to afford their own housing by putting more of their income in their

invested in own pockets."

Additionally, the Rental Assistance Program would bridge the gap between low wages and high rents.

Junior Rachel Deane said Fredericksburg city residents' forget homelessness is a local concern.

According to Deane, who spoke last Sunday with Echols at two area churches about homelessness and housing, the pastor at Hillcrest

Andrew Deen/Bullet

Homeless camps occupy areas close to the town, including this spot which is less than a quarter of a mile from Snowden Apartments off Rte. 1.

Lutheran Church had no idea homelessness was such a problem in Fredericksburg.

Another member of the CCC ministry team, sophomore Rachel Hundley, agreed.

"You see people in big cities on the streets," she said. "Washington, New York. I never even thought about the homeless in Fredericksburg."

JRB, Honor Council And ARH Election Results

By JOHN COLEMAN
Staff Writer

Election results for the members of the 2004-2005 Judicial Review Board (JRB), Honor Council and the Association of Residence Halls (ARH) were announced on Friday, March 26, as were glimpses of each student organization's plan for the upcoming year.

Those elected as members for the Honor Council include rising sophomores: Sarah Eckman, Ashley Wood, Annie Turner and Geoff Hoech; rising juniors: Andrea McDaniel, Kevin Diana, Molly Fitch and Courtney Hopkins; and rising seniors: Jeremy Potter, Sara Michener, Lisa Maloney and Sarah Ellison.

"Next year is going to be very exciting because the college is moving to university status," Cris Clapp, the newly elected Honor Council president said. "Student organizations are trying to do amazing things."

The Honor Council is currently making plans to better next year's honor week by inviting more bands to play, promoting the Honor Council's publication, "The Gavel" and updating their three-year-old web page, Clapp said.

"We want to promote the positive side of honor and what it brings to the community," she said.

Newly elected JRB members include rising seniors: Todd Bennett, Susan Duke and Tripp White; rising juniors: Maryann Davidson, Lesley Lane, Molly Murphy, Emily Shamsuddin

and Jacklyn Varela; and rising sophomores: Katie Donohue, Peter Larson, Evan Stepanick, Paul Walsh and Aaron Zelek.

"Next year will hopefully be a very promising year for the Judicial Review Board," Cherelle Read, the newly elected JRB president said. "We as a board have already been discussing new ideas for promoting judicial and alcohol awareness."

The JRB is planning educational programs in the residence halls and a question and answer session to familiarize the campus with the board and answer any questions about the Judicial System they might have, Read said.

"Judicial Awareness is one thing we really need to promote because most students on

campus often confuse the Honor Council with the JRB which is one thing I definitely want to change," she said.

For ARH, Janne Leal was elected president, Sam Cupper was elected vice president, Dan Bouchard was elected treasurer and Sarah Crawford was elected secretary.

"It's going to be a great year and the ARH is planning many things such as a bigger and better Friday Night Dry and Powder Puff football game. Those two events are big and pretty popular," Sam Cupper, the vice president-elect of ARH said.

Cupper said the ARH members will be meeting to formulate some possible ideas that they would like to see happen next year.

Name Change Done

By STEPHANIE TAIT
Staff Writer

All is quiet on the western front.

The battle of the name change is over. On March 19, Gov. Mark Warner signed and subsequently passed the bill making University of Mary Washington the umbrella name connecting Mary Washington College and the James Monroe Center.

Although the governor was not able to be reached for comment, Ellen Qualls, the press secretary and spokesperson for the governor, said he signed the bill without any changes.

"(The governor) looked over the recommendation of the Board of Visitors, took in guidance from the regions legislatures, and saw the vote in the legislature," Qualls said. "These factors caused him to sign the bill."

The signing of the name change bill was the final step in the name change process. According to the bill, the Carnegie Foundation reclassified Mary Washington College as a University based upon the number of graduate degrees awarded.

On Nov. 22, 2003 the Board of Visitors approved the name University of Mary Washington without debate. Then the bill proposing the name change was sponsored by Del. Cole, a Mary Washington College alumnus, in the House of Delegates.

The bill was passed in the House on Jan. 26, with a vote of 90 delegates for and five delegates against.

Sen. Chichester then sponsored the bill in the Senate, which was passed on Feb. 23, with a vote of 32 senators for and seven senators against.

It was signed on March 16 by the Speaker of the House, on March 17 by the president of the Senate and on March 19 by the governor.

As of July 1, the name change will go into effect. Diplomas received by graduates next spring will read Mary Washington College of the University of Mary Washington.

According to campus-wide publications, the idea of the name change is to unite both Mary Washington College and the James Monroe Center "as a single university, sharing administrative resources yet allowing each campus to flourish as each faculty works to fulfill its unique mission."

Mixed sentiments follow the aftermath of the

bill signing.

Reaction of the administration to the name change is positive overall.

President Bill Anderson has indicated that he is very pleased.

"The governor's signing is an exciting day for the institution, and the start of another fabulous chapter in the history of the organization," Anderson said.

Rick Hurley, executive vice president and chief financial officer, is pleased with the outcome.

"I am excited for the institution," Hurley said. "This is a giant step in the evolution from being a college to being a university."

Reaction from those initially opposed to the name change encompasses admiration for the effort put up against the change, to disappointment with the administration in their handling of the situation.

"I am both pleased and impressed with the grassroots effort," said Steven Watkins, associate professor of English, linguistics, and speech at Mary Washington College and adviser to *The Bullet*. "The broad coalition of students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the community did an excellent job in fighting to save the name."

Watkins sees a victory in what others may view as a defeat.

"We saved the name," he said. "I see it as a victory against blatant sexism, the fact that people are not going to lie down and allow women's contributions to be swept under the rug."

In fact the name was saved.

"Mary Washington" will remain in the new umbrella name. However, the syntax of the name was the cause of some debate in the General Assembly.

According to the Free Lance-Star, Sen. Edd Houck was protesting the syntax of the name. Houck tried to introduce another bill changing the "University of Mary Washington" to "Mary Washington University."

"This is a 'Mary' thing," Houck is quoted to have said. "There's still that gender issue that's involved. The only thing I can surmise, somewhere in the marketing studies it that if it's 'University' first instead of 'Mary' it takes some of the gender bias out of it."

Although the fight for and against the name change has caused heated debate, parties on both sides can unite and take pride in Mary Washington College.

"The Governor's signing is an exciting day for the institution, and the start of another fabulous chapter in the history of the organization."

-President Anderson

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